

March 2018 Update

Program Monitoring: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) conducted the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education and Training Management Evaluation during the week of March 5. The county selected was Ramsey. Follow-up has since been completed, and the exit interview was April 10. FNS has 60 days to complete its report.

Workforce One Update: The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development held a webinar March 27 to help SNAP Education and Training providers prepare for the upcoming change to Workforce One, which would allow providers to enroll a participant without a referral from MAXIS (the state's online system that automates eligibility determination, benefits calculation and case management for a variety of social service programs). The Workforce One change was implemented April 5 and the Minnesota Department of Human Services released a question-and-answer document to guide providers through the process. This change will help to ensure all data is being captured in Workforce One.

Request for Proposal Updates: The Department of Human Services released its second round of request for proposals for additional SNAP Education and Training providers to contract directly with the department and receive 50-percent reimbursement for services provided. The request for proposals closes May 14 and contracts should begin July 1, 2018. The department has also invited two current county-contracted SNAP Education and Training providers to become direct contracts of the department and receive 50-percent reimbursement for eligible services provided. These will be sole source contracts beginning July 1, 2018.

SNAP Education and Training Supervisor: As indicated in the December Quarterly Update, Children and Family Services Administration promoted Tikki Brown to economic opportunity and nutrition assistance director. With this transition, the department posted a SNAP Education and Training supervisor position and closed the posting April 16.

Workgroup Updates: The Coordination Workgroup continues to meet on a monthly basis and is an opportunity for current SNAP Education and Training providers and organizations interested in providing Education and Training services to meet and share on topics such as cost allocation, SNAP eligibility, training programs for participants, and many others. The meetings are held the third Thursday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. Those interested in attending should contact Ashley Snyder at ashley.snyder@state.mn.us.